

# Ford Motor Company

L. W. Camp, Director  
Automotive Safety Office  
Environmental and Safety Engineering

September 21, 2000

00V-284 (01)

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford Motor Company submits the following information concerning a safety-compliance recall action that it is initiating.

## 573.5 (c)(2)

The affected vehicles were originally produced by Ford Motor Company and then modified to BI-Fuel CNG powered vehicles by GFI Control Systems, Inc., 100 Hollinger Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, N2K 2Z3, Phone 519-576-4270.

Affected vehicles include certain 1998-2000 model year Ford F150/250 BI-Fuel CNG pickup trucks and Ford E250/350 BI-Fuel CNG Econoline vehicles built at the following Ford assembly plants, and modified by GFI at their facilities during the production periods shown below:

<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Ford Assembly Plant</u>	<u>GFI Production Dates</u>
2000 F150	Ontario Truck	2/21/2000 through 9/20/2000
1999 F150/250	Kansas City	5/10/1999 through 11/16/1999
1998 F150/250	Kansas City	5/10/1998 through 12/31/1998
1999 E250/350	Lorain Assembly	12/10/1998 through 11/16/1999
1998 E250/350	Lorain Assembly	3/31/1998 through 10/12/1998

Because the vehicles are not produced in VIN order, information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-800-392-3673), or by contacting a local Ford dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from OASIS computer system.



573.5 (c)(3)

00V-284(02)

Approximately 4500 vehicles are involved in this recall action.

573.5 (c)(4)

All of these vehicles are affected.

573.5 (c)(5)

On affected vehicles, the label affixed at the fuel filler door by the vehicle modifier contains the inspection date and expiration date of the CNG tank, however it does not contain the statement "See instructions on the fuel container for inspection and service life". FMVSS 303 S5.3 specifies that this statement be provided on a permanent label near the vehicle refueling connection, therefore the vehicles do not comply with this requirement.

573.5 (c)(7)

This condition was discovered on several vehicles during an internal audit. Subsequent investigation by Ford confirmed the condition and identified the affected vehicle population.

573.5 (c)(8)

Ford is not aware of any allegations of accidents or injuries related to this condition. Owners of record of the affected vehicles will be notified of the condition on or about the week of October 23, 2000. They will be provided a label with the required statement, along with instructions for affixing the label at the fuel filler door. The letter will also advise that if preferred, their dealer will affix the label at no cost to owners.

573.5 (c)(9)

Ford does not at this time plan to make a statement available to the media concerning the subject matter of this recall. Notification letters to dealers and customers from Ford Customer Service Division will be forwarded to the agency when available.

573.5 (c)(11)

Ford has assigned campaign number 00L07 to this action.

Sincerely,

  
L. W. Camp